



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 September 2003

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- SecurityFocus reports at least 1,000 automobile shoppers who submitted online credit applications to any of 150 different automotive dealerships around the U.S. had their personal and financial details exposed on a publicly-accessible website. (See item [7](#))
- The Food Safety and Inspection Service reports Kona Smoke House is voluntarily recalling approximately 200 pounds of beef products that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. (See item [15](#))
- The Associated Press reports the Earth Liberation Front has claimed responsibility for placing incendiary devices inside a Michigan water-bottling plant's pumping station. (See item [16](#))

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *September 25, Reuters* — NRC sends team to nuke after outage. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) sent a six-member team to Exelon Nuclear's Peach Bottom nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania to look into the causes of the station's September 15 shutdown. An electrical grid disturbance has been blamed for triggering the shutdowns, the NRC said in a statement issued Wednesday, September 24. At about 1:32 a.m. on September 15, at a location far from the plant site, breakers on the power grid apparently failed to isolate

the effects of a lightning strike, resulting in low-voltage on both of the off-site power lines that feed Peach Bottom, knocking the plant off line. **Like other nuclear power plants, Peach Bottom not only sends power to the grid, it also receives energy back for operational purposes, making them vulnerable to automatic shutdowns if that flow of power fluctuates or is cut. After the power cut, one of the plant's four backup generators failed, prompting the plant to declare an Unusual Event, the lowest of four levels of emergency classification used by the NRC.** The event was canceled later that morning after power to the plant was restored.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030925/utilities\\_exelon\\_peachbottom\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030925/utilities_exelon_peachbottom_1.html)

2. *September 24, Government Accounting Office* — **Report-GAO-03-752: Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Oversight of Security at Commercial Nuclear Power Plants Needs to Be Strengthened.** The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks intensified the nation's focus on national preparedness and homeland security. **Among possible terrorist targets are the nation's nuclear power plants-104 facilities containing radioactive fuel and waste. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) oversees plant security through an inspection program designed to verify the plants' compliance with security requirements.** As part of that program, NRC conducted annual security inspections of plants and force-on-force exercises to test plant security against a simulated terrorist attack. **GAO was asked to review (1) the effectiveness of NRC's security inspection program and (2) legal challenges affecting power plant security.** Currently, NRC is reevaluating its inspection program. We did not assess the adequacy of security at the individual plants; rather, our focus was on NRC's oversight and regulation of plant security. GAO is making recommendations to strengthen NRC's oversight at commercial nuclear power plants by promptly restoring annual security inspections and revising force-on-force exercises. NRC disagreed with many of GAO's findings, but did not comment on GAO's recommendations.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03752.pdf>

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## **Chemical Sector**

3. *September 25, ABC7 (NJ)* — **Toxins leaking inside abandoned chemical plant.** An abandoned chemical plant in Jersey City is packed with hundreds of drums of leaking toxic chemicals, and the plant is near homes and a shopping mall. Firefighters were called to Dye Specialties Building after the sprinkler system inside the building went off. Inside they found dozens of containers leaking toxic chemicals. **One of the chemicals found inside this factory was sulphuric acid. The other was phosgene, and that is of concern because this plant has been vacant since June. Phosgene is a chemical listed on the government watch list of chemicals that can be used by terrorists. At room temperature, phosgene is poisonous. Its an industrial chemical used to make plastics and pesticides.** The owner of the factory, Robert Lindley, apparently left a note saying he would be gone on vacation for two weeks but he never returned to the factory. Lindley was arrested yesterday.

Source: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=sectionId=18&id=19312>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

4. *September 25, Seattle Post-Intelligencer (WA)* — **Navy takes 19 old jets out of service. The Navy has taken 19 of its aging EA-6B Prowler radar-jamming jets out of service after cracks were found in their wings.** The Navy and Marine Corps jets were grounded after an order Tuesday, September 23, from Naval Air Systems Command that "red-striped" the wings on the aircraft to ground them for repairs. The Vietnam-era planes' problems with fatigued parts have drawn concern from Congress and the Pentagon for several years. The twin-engine jets are so old that many of the original companies that took part in their design and construction no longer exist. The affected wings will be sent to the Jacksonville, FL, Navy depot for repair. Most of the nation's approximately 120 Prowlers are with at least 15 squadrons based at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station north of Seattle. Four more squadrons are with the Marine Corps Air Wing at Cherry Point, NC. **The electronic warfare jets are considered one of the most valuable parts of the U.S. military arsenal for their ability to provide protection to planes and ships by jamming enemy radar and communications.**  
Source: [http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/141211\\_prowlers25.html](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/141211_prowlers25.html)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

5. *September 25, The Register (UK)* — **Lloyds TSB target of phishing scam. Using spamming software, random Internet users have recently been receiving e-mails purporting to be a security check from Lloyds TSB, which are in reality attempts to trick users into handing over sensitive account information to fraudsters.** The scam mail invites Lloyds TSB customers to input their debit card details on a bogus site, whose URL has been cunningly disguised to resemble the real thing. The site is currently down, however, these kinds of so-called 'phishing' scams have a habit of recurring. Earlier this month, online customers of Barclays Bank were targeted in a similar scam. In a statement, Lloyds TSB has issued general advice to its customers in response to the circulation of the fraudulent e-mails, which it advises its clients to ignore.  
Source: <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/55/33047.html>
6. *September 25, The Edmonton Sun (Canada)* — **E-mail scam targeted Canadian banks.** Computer users across Canada were targeted in a recent scam where e-mails purporting to be from banks urged people to disclose financial details, police and banks warned on Wednesday, September 24. An investigation is under way into pitches made by con artists posing as agents of the Bank of Montreal (BMO) and Mouvement des Caisses Desjardins, said Paul Marsh, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police spokesman. **E-mails claiming to be from the banks offered respondents a chance to win C\$500 if they forwarded personal information, RCMP and Canadian Bankers Association officials warned. Customers who replied were routed to websites that appeared to be BMO and Desjardins home pages, where they were asked to disclose bank card numbers and passwords.** The banks issued statements denying any link to what officials called a disguised spiel made by computer hackers. BMO officials said they changed the passwords of any customers who responded to the scam messages, which they believed originated in the western United States.

Source: <http://www.canoe.ca/EdmontonNews/es.es-09-25-0063.html>

7. *September 25, SecurityFocus* — **Car shoppers' credit details exposed in bulk.** At least 1,000 automobile shoppers who submitted online credit applications to any of 150 different automotive dealerships around the U.S. had their personal and financial details exposed on a publicly-accessible website, according to a computer security consultant who stumbled across the privacy gaffe. The exposed site was an administrative page at the Tennessee-based hosting company Dealerskins, a firm that provides turnkey Web solutions to automotive dealerships. **The page -- which was not password protected and included no warnings that it was private -- allowed visitors to view, in reverse-chronological order, all of the information that had been typed into Web forms on Dealerskins-hosted sites, like autocentersdirect.com and courtesyflm.com.** The URL for the unprotected page could be determined by visiting a Dealerskins-hosted website and viewing the HTML source code -- a simple matter in most browsers. Dealerskins immediately shut the page down after learning about the flaw.  
Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/news/7067>

8. *September 24, finextra.com* — **New York blackout casts shadow on business contingency plans.** The Securities Industry Association (SIA) has highlighted the need for steam generation and multiple means of communications as the chief business continuity lessons from the recent New York power blackout. The importance of steam generation to business continuity efforts emerged as a new worry in the New York blackout following delays in resumption of trading at the America Stock Exchange due to the outage of a ConEd substation that supplies steam to cool the Exchange's trading floor. The SIA Critical Infrastructure Subcommittee has identified this as a "priority issue" for its agenda. The extent of disruption to communication lines will also be reviewed. Ways of working with providers of cell phone service to ensure reliable communication during emergencies will be explored, says the SIA. Blackberries, two-way radios, and other devices have been mentioned as alternatives.  
Source: <http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=10035>

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## **Transportation Sector**

9. *September 26, The Australian* — **Biker invades airport terminal.** West Australian police are investigating a serious breach of security at Perth airport after a man allegedly drove a Harley Davidson motorcycle into the Qantas terminal yesterday. The man reportedly smashed through the electronic access doors at the terminal at about 4:30 p.m., and was quickly apprehended by two Australian Protective Services officers on duty before he cleared a security barrier. **Regional superintendent David Parkinson said police were investigating witness claims the man had said he was not a terrorist, but that he had an explosive device.** The man, believed to be in his 40s, was in an upset emotional state. Police evacuated the terminal and bomb squad officers were rushed to the scene. Outgoing flights were delayed for about an hour – causing a crush of thousands of travellers in the busy terminal. Regional Superintendent David Parkinson said such incidents could not be prevented entirely and that he was satisfied with the prompt response of security personnel. He said police had ruled out any links between

the man and terrorist groups, and believed his actions followed a domestic dispute.

Source: [http://www.sundaytimes.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0.7034.7379266%5E2761.00.html](http://www.sundaytimes.news.com.au/common/story_page/0.7034.7379266%5E2761.00.html)

10. *September 25, Pacific Business News* — **TSA seeks part-time screeners at Hawaii airports.**

The Transportation Security Administration, (TSA) which just days ago listed only Kona among airports where it needs part-time security screeners, now says it needs them all over the state. **TSA said Wednesday it is recruiting part-timers at Honolulu International as well as Kona, Kahului, Lihue and Lanai.** "TSA is seeking the part-time screeners in order to gain greater flexibility in staffing security checkpoints at 90 regional and major airports across the country," said Rep. Ed Case, who agitated for this earlier in the year, writing Loy to complain that Hawaii airport security forces were short-staffed. "TSA is looking for dedicated men and women to step forward and serve on the front lines of the war against terror," TSA Administrator James Loy.

Source: <http://pacific.bizjournals.com/pacific/stories/2003/09/22/day41.html>

11. *September 25, East Bay Business Times* — **Oakland breaks ground on train depot. Work has begun on California's \$6.6 million Oakland Coliseum Intercity Train Station that, when finished, will improve service on Amtrak's Capitol Corridor commuter train service that runs through the East Bay.** Work on the facility, located at 73rd Avenue off San Leandro Street, began Wednesday. The station will provide train passengers with access to nearby BART trains, AC Transit buses, Oakland International Airport and the Network Associates Coliseum complex, home of the Oakland A's and Raiders, as well as the Golden State Warriors. **It will include a 600-foot concrete passenger platform, shelters for passengers, landscaping, lighting, public art and a pedestrian ramp that will serve as a connection to the existing walkway between BART's Coliseum station and the stadium. As a complimentary project, a 35-space parking lot and two bus stops will be built adjacent to the new station.** Amtrak's Capitol Corridor train connects Sacramento to San Jose.

Source: <http://eastbay.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2003/09/22/day26.html>

12. *September 24, General Accounting Office* — **Report-GAO-03-1173: Airport Passenger Screening: Preliminary Observations on Progress Made and Challenges Remaining.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is tasked with securing all modes of transportation, including the screening of airline passengers. TSA has met numerous requirements in this regard, such as deploying more than 50,000 federal screeners at over 440 commercial airports nationwide. **To determine whether TSA's passenger screening program is achieving its intended results, GAO is conducting an ongoing evaluation of TSA's efforts to (1) ensure that passenger screeners are effectively trained and supervised, (2) measure screener performance in detecting threat objects, and (3) implement and evaluate the contract screening pilot program.** Among other points, TSA recognized that ongoing training of screeners on a frequent basis, and effective supervisory training, is critical to maintaining and enhancing skills. Although TSA has not yet deployed its training programs, it has taken steps in establishing recurrent and supervisory training, including developing six recurrent training modules that will soon be deployed to all airports. **Because GAO's evaluation is ongoing and the results are preliminary, there are no recommendations at this time.** Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d031173high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-1173>



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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Agriculture Sector**

13. *September 25, Yahoo News* — **EU to debate ways to grow GMO crops. European Union (EU) agriculture ministers will address their divisions over genetically modified organisms (GMOs) next week when they discuss guidelines on growing biotech crops in Europe's fields, officials said on Thursday.** Austria and Luxembourg are pressing for tough EU legislation in a "one size fits all" approach, to limit the spread of GMOs from biotech crops to organic and conventional varieties. Both countries have said European Commission guidelines released last July are too vague as each country can decide for itself how to organize GMO crop sowing. **Rules for growing gene crops are already in place, while legislation for labeling food and animal feed containing GMOs is being rubber-stamped and should apply by spring 2004. EU member states are split over seed purity rules. Setting levels for GMO content in seed for organic and conventional crop cultivation is necessary for the EU to end its unofficial five-year ban on biotech crops.** The EU's seeds committee will meet again in late October to vote on the proposal. The Commission could ask EU states to vote on introducing new genetically modified crops and food products as early as January next year, officials say.

Source: [http://www.agprofessional.com/show\\_story.php?id=21458](http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=21458)

14. *September 24, Canadian Press* — **Scientist says more isolated BSE outbreaks possible. Canada may not be finished with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), says a leading infectious disease researcher.** Bhagirath Singh, director of a conference on prion diseases that opens Thursday, suspects the disease that has paralyzed the Canadian beef industry is still capable of spontaneous outbreaks despite the tightest restrictions on cattle feed. **"The possibility of a spontaneous disease is always there because we are breeding hundreds of thousands and millions of animals," said Singh, scientific director of the Institute of Infection and Immunity at the Canadian Health Research Institute. "There is no reason that one or two may not get the spontaneous mutation that leads to the disease."** Politicians, cattle producers, and Canadian health regulators have played down the possibility that a single case of BSE found in Alberta last spring may have happened spontaneously. But efforts to track the source of the disease under the assumption it came through tainted cattle feed failed. **International animal health officials are meeting in Paris this week to discuss how to handle isolated BSE outbreaks without unduly penalizing countries that report them.**

Source: <http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2003/09/24/201608-cp.html>

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## Food Sector

15. *September 24, Food Safety and Inspection Service* — **Beef recalled for possible contamination. Kona Smoke House, a Bellevue, WA, firm, is voluntarily recalling approximately 200 pounds of beef products that may be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Wednesday.** The products were produced on September 4, 2003. The products were distributed to wholesale establishments in Las Vegas, NV. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of the products. The problem was discovered through routine FSIS microbiological testing. Consumption of food contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease. Healthy people rarely contract listeriosis. Listeriosis can also cause miscarriages and stillbirths, as well as serious and sometimes fatal infections in those with weak immune systems.  
Source: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/recalls/prelease/pr050-2003.htm>

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## Water Sector

16. *September 24, Associated Press* — **Radical environmental group claims responsibility for water-bottling plant tampering.** Four incendiary devices were found inside a Michigan water-bottling plant's pumping station, and a radical environmental group said it was responsible. **Plastic bottles containing a flammable liquid were discovered Monday by Ice Mountain Spring Water workers.** No one was hurt removing the bottles, and water monitored at the plant showed no signs of tampering. Company spokesperson Deb Wudyka said Wednesday the liquid apparently was meant to start a fire rather than cause an explosion. **The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) claimed responsibility, accusing Ice Mountain of stealing well water for profit. ELF has claimed responsibility for many arson fires at housing construction sites in the West and Midwest.**  
Source: [http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/breaking\\_news/6851945.htm](http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/breaking_news/6851945.htm)
17. *September 23, Associated Press* — **Colorado River water-sharing deal.** The board of the Metropolitan Water District, the largest water broker in Southern California, approved a deal Tuesday to divide the state's share of Colorado River water and officials said they were optimistic they would win needed support from three other agencies. Metropolitan was the first of the four agencies to vote on the long-awaited pact, which is needed to secure the water future for Southern California. The 75-year deal would restore Metropolitan's privileges to fill its half-empty aqueduct with additional Colorado water. The U.S. Interior Department took those privileges away when the state failed to meet a December 31 deadline to reach agreement. **Two other boards, the Coachella Valley Water District and the San Diego County Water Authority, were expected to follow Metropolitan's lead this week. But there were lingering doubts about water officials in the Imperial Valley, the state's largest user of Colorado water.** Many in the heavily agricultural valley view the Colorado River as the region's lifeblood. And that has created opposition to a cornerstone of the deal: agreement that Imperial will transfer up to 200,000 acre-feet a year to urban San Diego and possibly other 1.6 million acre-feet to Metropolitan.

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## **Public Health Sector**

18. *September 25, Reuters* — **Hong Kong to use HIV drug to treat SARS. Hong Kong hospitals will use the HIV drug Kaletra together with ribavirin to treat Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) patients if the territory is hit by a second wave of the disease, its hospital chief said on Thursday.** Experts have warned that the disease could return during the winter months and countries in the region are arming themselves with drugs and elaborate contingency plans for what may be another onslaught of the disease. **Hospital Authority chief William Ho said an analysis of the treatments given to all SARS patients in Hong Kong showed that a small group given both Kaletra and ribavirin had a significantly lower death rate than those given only ribavirin.** Those who were administered both drugs also needed lower dosages of steroids, he added. "Only ribavirin may not be useful but both ribavirin and kaletra look more promising," Ho said. "If SARS comes, all hospitals will cooperate and use what's believed to be the best treatment protocol." **Hong Kong used a cocktail of the drug ribavirin and steroids to treat the bulk of its nearly 1,800 SARS patients earlier this year, but experts elsewhere have repeatedly questioned the use of ribavirin, saying it was ineffective.**

Source: <http://asia.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=3506420>

19. *September 25, Harvard Crimson* — **Study links West Nile virus to drought. There may be a correlation between droughts and outbreaks of West Nile virus, according to Paul R. Epstein of Harvard Medical School. "Drought is what amplifies the virus among birds and mosquitoes and makes for large outbreaks," Epstein said.** Epstein works with a team of researchers on the West Nile virus. Despite West Nile's short history in the U.S., Epstein said he is able to point to an emerging pattern that tends to support his theory. The 1999 New York City outbreak was preceded by a three-month drought. Major outbreaks over the past two summers, including those in 2002 in Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio and in 2003 in Colorado and Nebraska, were all preceded by summer droughts. **Some researchers say that more investigation into the connection between droughts and West Nile outbreaks is needed. Robert Tesh, a professor of pathology at the University of Texas Medical School, said that while droughts did precede outbreaks in New York and Colorado, among other places, they also occurred in Texas and Louisiana within the past two years, despite what he termed "relatively wet summers."** Epstein claims that weather patterns surrounding outbreaks in Russia and Romania and several in Israel dating back to 1951 support his theory.

Source: <http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=348945>

20. *September 24, Newhouse News Service* — **Drug industry fights back against counterfeiters. Last year, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) agents stumbled onto 1,004 tiny vials of medicine labeled Procrit, Johnson & Johnson's anemia drug, but with none of the proper paperwork. Within days, laboratory tests showed the vials were counterfeits. For executives at Johnson & Johnson and their subsidiary Ortho, there was no avoiding the magnitude of the problem.** Inside a refrigerated warehouse, pallets holding 2.4 million doses of Procrit, a six-month supply, were stacked 30 feet high. Until they found a solution, \$1.2



billion in inventory was stranded. **The solution was to borrow anti-counterfeiting technology used on the \$20 bill to develop a tiny adhesive seal for the Procrit cartons.** During the next months, other safety features were introduced. Ortho changed the tops and seals on the vials to make them harder to reseal after opening. Ortho also limited the number of wholesalers who can sell Procrit. **In the wake of the widespread recall earlier this year of counterfeit versions of Lipitor, the nation's biggest selling prescription drug, the FDA is considering measures to reduce the counterfeit threat, including changes to packaging. An FDA task force is expected to present preliminary findings as early as this week.**

Source: <http://www.newhousenews.com/archive/schwab092403.html>

21. *September 24, Associated Press* — **Virginia man dies from eastern equine encephalitis. A Gloucester County man in his 70s has died from eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), the first death of the year from a mosquito-borne disease in Virginia, state health officials said.** The man contracted the disease August 26 and died September 15, said Reuben Varghese, health director for the Three Rivers Health District. **The death is the only EEE case reported this year in Virginia. Eight cases have been reported nationwide and four have resulted in deaths.** EEE is considered the most deadly of the mosquito-borne diseases, and usually affects animals, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The virus attacks the central nervous system, causing the brain to swell. Symptoms range from mild-flu-like ones to coma. People older than 50 and younger than 15 are most susceptible, though, and 35 percent of people who survive have lingering neurological problems. A third of people who contract the virus die from it, the CDC said. The federal government began tracking EEE in 1964, and has documented 200 cases, most in the eastern United States.

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/virginia/dp-va--encephalitisdeath0924sep24.0.2537776.story?coll=dp-headlines-virginia>

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## **Government Sector**

22. *September 25, v* — **DHS announces grants. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced today that almost \$74 million in funds is being made available to 19 states and territories in the form of grants for improvements to and construction of emergency operations centers (EOCs) around the country.** The grants, being distributed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), are designed to help improve emergency preparedness and management by ensuring that EOCs have the suitable capabilities that provide flexibility, sustainability, security, survivability, and interoperability when responding to emergencies.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

23. *September 25, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Homeland Security response reaching Isabel victims. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is coordinating a**

massive federal response to the victims of Hurricane Isabel involving thousands of emergency workers and volunteers and millions of pounds of emergency supplies. Residents of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and the District of Columbia are receiving emergency supplies as they clean out residences and businesses, discard damaged belongings and begin the long road to recovery from this massive storm, FEMA-supplied electrical generators have been installed by the Corps of Engineers at 911 call centers, water pumping stations and medical facilities in Virginia. FEMA generators are also providing power in North Carolina. These supplies, along with tents cots, blankets, portable toilets, plastic sheeting and roofing were stocked at four FEMA mobilization centers days before Isabel's landfall and are meeting the critical needs of people affected by Isabel. **The U.S. Coast Guard, also part of Homeland Security, is supporting FEMA and state and local agencies with aircraft, boats and personnel flying missions in support of recovery efforts.** Coast Guard assessment teams have identified at least 800 aids-to-navigation markers damaged or missing and have begun to replace critical and damaged markers.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=5173>

24. *September 25, Cincinnati Business Courier* — **Ohio formalizes homeland security division.** The Ohio Division of Homeland Security formally will come into existence Friday. **The state agency was created by House Bill 95, which Gov. Bob Taft signed into law June 26, and will be housed within the Ohio Public Safety Department.** Its first executive director will be John Overly, a former Union County sheriff, who has coordinated the state's homeland security efforts since June. An Ohio Security Task Force, chaired by Public Safety Director Kenneth Morckel, oversees the division. **The task force was established shortly after the September 11, 2001, terror attacks to plan Ohio's security measures and coordinate with the federal Homeland Security Department.**

Source: <http://cincinnati.bizjournals.com/cincinnati/stories/2003/09/22/daily44.html>

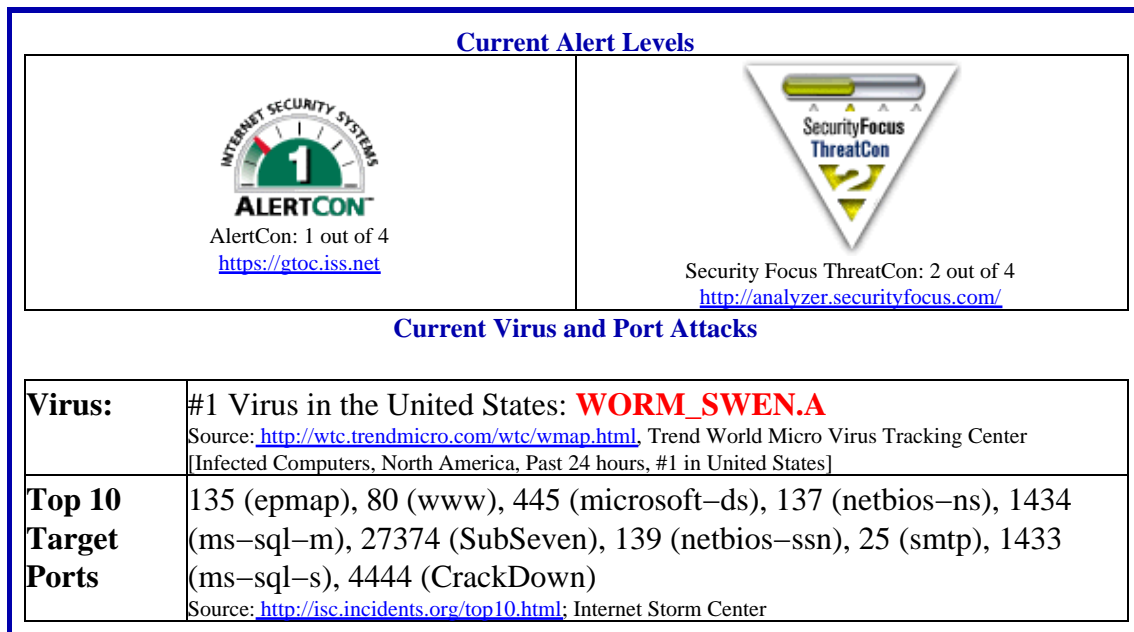
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## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

25. *September 25, The Register (UK)* — **Sobig linked to DDoS attacks on anti-spam sites. A senior anti-spam activist is calling on law enforcement authorities to track down the perpetrators behind a widespread and sustained attack on anti-spam sites. The call, from Steve Linford of Spamhaus, comes along with fresh evidence that the assaults have been enabled by the infamous Sobig worm.** Earlier this week two anti-spam services announced their closure due to DDoS attacks, and other attempts by spammers to make their operation as difficult as possible. Their closure follows an earlier decision to discontinue the popular if controversial SPEWS block list for similar reasons. Linford says that Spamhaus has been under constant "extremely heavy" DDoS attack since early July. He believes the attack against his site and others originates from Windows machines infected with the Sobig worm, controlled by spammers over IRC networks. The Sobig worm is known to install Trojan code on infected PCs turning them into "zombies" capable of relaying spam messages or attacking other machines. "Sobig has created a network of tens of thousands of zombie machines that have left a DDoS arsenal in the hands of spammers," Linford said.

Source: <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/56/33059.html>

## Internet Alert Dashboard



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## General Sector

26. *September 25, Reuters* — **U.S. says Iran has last chance to comply.** The Bush administration said on Thursday that Iran had "one last chance" to comply with nuclear safeguards and threatened to take the dispute to the U.N. Security Council if Tehran refused. **The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has raised concerns about Iran's nuclear aims, and has given Tehran until the end of October to dispel doubts that it is secretly developing nuclear arms. "The international community is expressing the same concern that we have been expressing. So this is one last chance for Iran to comply, and if it doesn't, then we believe it should be reported to the UN Security Council," White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters. The Security Council has the power to impose diplomatic and economic sanctions. Diplomats said earlier on Thursday that the U.N. nuclear watchdog has found traces of arms-grade enriched uranium at a second site in Iran.** Earlier this year, inspectors from the IAEA found traces of enriched uranium at a plant at Natanz, some 150 miles south of the Iranian capital.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=3509087>

27. *September 25, Associated Press* — **Iranian charged with trying to export fighter jet parts.** An Iranian man, Serzhik Avasappian, 40, has been charged with attempting to export components for an F-14 fighter jet to his country without obtaining an export license from the U.S. State Department, Florida immigration officials said Wednesday.

Avasappian said he was a Tehran-based broker attempting to purchase the plane parts for the Iranian government, according to immigration officials. Agents began negotiating with Avasappian in January 2002 over the export of the components, according to the criminal

complaint. It alleges there was discussion of illegally exporting F-14 fighter jet parts, C-130A aircraft electrical and avionic upgrades, as well as the purchase and shipment of helicopters to Iran. **"While these components may appear relatively innocuous to the untrained eye, they are tightly controlled for good reason," Jesus Torres, interim special agent in charge, said in a written statement. "In the wrong hands, they pose a potential threat to Americans at home and abroad."** Although warned by agents that the controlled items could not be legally exported to Iran, Avasappian said they could be shipped to Italy and then moved to Iran, according to the criminal complaint. Avasappian was being held at a federal detention center in Miami Wednesday.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/LAW/09/25/export.plot.ap/>

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### **DHS/IAIP Products &Contact Information**

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

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